Goldwater Sees Cover-up

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Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said yesterday that he was told four years ago about Central Intelligence Agency plots to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and hinted that Senate investigators have suppressed evidence that President Kennedy authorized the plots.

Goldwater, a member of the Senate intelligence committee chaired by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), said the evidence of Kennedy's involvement is contained in the secret testimony the committee took. Goldwater spoke to reporters outside a hearing room.

"It was presidential," Goldwater said. "We spent nine of the 10 months (of hearings) trying to get Kennedy's name out of it."

A spokesman for the committee said that transcripts do contain some testimony to the effect that Kennedy was involved in the assassination plans. In writing its assassination report, the committee balanced this testimony against other, conflicting testimony, the spokesman said.

The report concluded there was insufficient evidence to conclude that Kennedy authorized the Castro plots.

Church has said repeatedly that it is inconceivable that the committee engaged in a cover-up to protect Kennedy's reputation because Goldwater and other Republican committee members participated in preparing the report.

Sen. John G. Tower (R-Tex.), the ranking GOP member of the committee, said he didn't "know what Goldwater was talking about."

Another committee member, Sen. Walter Huddleston (D-Ky.), said that Goldwater's statement was ridiculous. "I disagree with his suggestion that there was an effort by the committee to protect any person including the Kennedys. The committee got all the information it could . . . and reported all it knew.

"He has suggested many times that he had information that the rest of us didn't, but never produced it. I assume that if he knew anything that could contribute to the work of the committee, he'd come forward with it."